

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following new paragraph at page 1, after the title of the application:

This application is the U.S. national phase application of PCT International Application No. PCT/GB2004/001639, filed April 15, 2004, and claims priority of British Patent Application No. 0308672.5, filed April 15, 2003.

Please add the following heading at page 1, before line 2:

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Please add the following heading at page 1, line 8:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please add the following heading at page 1, 29:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please add the following heading at page 2, before line 1:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Please add the following heading at page 6 line 3:

EXAMPLES

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Step (i): Zinc triflate (10.9 g, 30 mmol, 1.5 eq), ~~(+)-N-methylmorpholine~~ (+)-N-methyl-ephedrine (5.7 g, 32 mmol, 1.6 eq), DBU (4.8 mL, 32 mmol, 1.6 eq) and 2-hydroxy-2-methyl-3-butyne (Alkyne 1, 80 mL) were stirred at room temperature for 2 h. Step (ii): a solution of acetaldehyde (1.13 mL, 20 mmol) in toluene (50 mL) was then slowly added over a 4 hour period. After stirring overnight at room temperature, the reaction was quenched by addition of sat. aq. NH₄Cl (50 mL). The combined organic layers were washed with sat. aq. NaCl (100 mL), dried (MgSO₄), filtered and concentrated *in vacuo*. Purification of the crude material by filtration through a plug of silica afforded 2.25 g of (II) as a yellow oil in 87% yield and 67% ee as determined by GC analysis. GC method; Lipodex-E column, 95°C, 55 psi, retention time: 16.6 min (minor isomer), 17.5 min (major isomer).